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Scribner, Armstrong & Co.:—Grote's Aristotle.—Rainy's Lectures on the Church of Scotland.—Mozley on Miracles.—The Little Sanctuary, by Dr. Raleigh.—Historical Primers, edited by E. A. Freeman.—Palgrave's Essays on Eastern Subjects.—Lucy Fitzadam.—A Cast of the Dice.—A First Appearance, by Mrs. Evans Bell.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM PHILADELPHIA.

PHILADELPHIA, June 17, 1872.—In weather like this it is easier to read books than to write about them; nevertheless, whoso knows of a good thing and tells not his neighbor is a mean man, and deserving hotter weather than this. Therefore will I tell you of some good books which have recently come to my knowledge.

There is good news from the subscription publishers—they are as busy as bees. Though most of them are content with the works already on hand, and nothing new is in the immediate future, yet of the books which I have noticed, from time to time, as appearing this year, all are selling rapidly. George Maclean has orders for Dio Lewis's book on "Our Digestion," faster than he can fill them, and is now printing a tenth thousand. He is also engaged on a new Bible—that unfailing stand-by of the subscription trade—which he will publish in the course of the summer. J. M. Stoddart & Co. have ordered the paper for the twentieth thousand of T. S. Arthur's "Three Years in a Man Trap," and all the others are also doing well.

With the regular trade, things are dull. Peterson, who is *sui generis*, finds his sales running into the usual summer lightness: but continues to pour books upon the market in unabated profusion. Charles Lever's recent death incited him to prepare a new edition of that author's works, and one volume of it, "Charles O'Malley," has already been issued. A new edition of Henry Cockton's novels has reached its second volume—"The Fatal Marriages" and "The Love Match," have been issued this month, and a third, "Sylvester Sound, the Somnambulist," will follow before its end. A new society-novel by Mrs. Ann S. Stephens, entitled "The Reigning Belle," will be issued soon, in style to correspond with its seventeen predecessors. (There is no truth in the report that Mesdames Stephens, Southworth, Hentz, Wood, and Dupuy have grown tired of counting their books, and agreed to measure them hereafter by the cord.)

A new English writer, Mrs. Forrester, is announced for next week, with an autobiographical romance, entitled "My Hero." It will be in a new style of binding, to which, however, Peterson's favorite "funereal pomp" of black and gold will still give tone. A campaign edition of "The Lives of Grant and Wilson," compiled by D. Brainard Williamson, is in press, and will be published in about two weeks.

A new edition of "Beautiful Snow and Other Poems" is also in preparation. It will be illustrated by E. L. Henry of your city. The plates of this work are very fine, and a set of good engravings will make it an elegant holiday book.

Henry Carey Baird has published "The School of Chemical Manures," a thin 12mo, translated from the French of M. George Ville, by A. A. Fesquet. This book contains the results of thirty years' experiments by M. Ville—results which have an important practical bearing on the science of husbandry. M. Ville has found that all plants require manures, which he divides into two grand classes, "nitrogenized manure," and "mineral manure, without nitrogen," and that these are required to be supplied artificially, in varying proportions, accordingly as the soil already contains more or less of one or both. In illustration of his theory, he shows in his frontispiece a very sickly sheaf of wheat, grown without manure. A couple of moderate improvements on this illustrates the virtues of soils treated respectively with nitrogenized and mineral manure alone, while a towering, full-eared sheaf shows the virtues which exist in a judicious combination of the two forces. The book is a plain, common-sensible one, and deserves to receive in this country as much attention as it is already eliciting in France.

Eugene Cummiskey has published "Going Home," a Catholic novel which I announced a few weeks ago. It is a spicy tale, somewhat sensational,

but with some excellent bits of character painting in it. There is, of course, a religious vein running through it; but this is kept in the background, and rather gives zest to the story than otherwise. It is very handsomely bound in cloth, with red edges, and an elaborate side stamp.

Howard Challen has recently published a "Stranger's Guide to Philadelphia," a small 32mo, in paper, for gratuitous distribution. It is a good index to the prominent places of interest in the city. He has also brought out for the American Antiquarian Publication Society "Callipædiæ;" or an Art How to Have Handsome Children," one of those old books, which like the "Decameron," have earned the right to exist by reason of the talent displayed in their composition, despite the dubious character of the contents. This is a medico-philosophical poem, written in Latin, half a thousand years or so ago, by the Abbot Claude Quillet (the last thing an abbot ought to write, one would think), and "now done into English verse by several hands." The versification is good, the matter—spicy, and the execution fine, as Challen's work always is. The present is a fac-simile of the London edition of 1710. (In paper, 8vo, pp. 110, $2.

The map publishers have been getting out some important works recently. S. Augustus Mitchell—of whom you may have heard in connection with an atlas and a series of geographies—has just published a good township map of West Virginia. It is on rollers, 53x64 inches, price $7. Mr. Mitchell is doing little just now except working on his atlas, of which he publishes a revised edition every three months.

J. L. Smith, successor to R. L. Barnes, 27 S. Sixth st., has published a large map (30x40 inches) of the railroads in Pennsylvania and the adjoining States. It is compiled by J. A. Anderson, Superintendent of the Belvidere Delaware R. R., and is quite accurate; so accurate, indeed, that it is indorsed and adopted by all the principal railroads in the State. He has also published a railroad map of New Jersey, also compiled by Anderson, and a county map of Georgia, by J. R. Butts; the last being a revised edition of one published in 1859.

H. C. S.

ADVANCE BOOK-NOTES.

[*This department is intended to include descriptive notices, from advance sheets, of all books of popular sale. Booksellers will thus be enabled to order knowingly and confidently on books likely to sell well in their localities, and to obtain such information as to the character of new publications as will "post" them for calling the attention of particular customers to books likely to suit their taste. Advance sheets for use in this department should be forwarded by publishers at earliest convenient date.*—ED.]

Appletons' Hand-Book of American Travel, Northern, and Eastern Tour, is a notably perfect work of its kind, containing in brief space and in shape convenient for reference all that one wants to know when "touring" for pleasure—where to go, how to get there, and what to see, how much it costs, etc. Various delightful routes are sketched out, with numerous specal trips by the way, useful maps are given, and in the revision for this summer the book is carried to a high point of excellence. The revised edition will be ready immediately.

Healthy Homes is the title of a very useful book by William Eassie, which the Appletons will publish here shortly, being a popular treatise on the sanitary requirements of the modern dwelling, giving detailed information as to the drainage, the water supply, damp and fire proofing, ventilation, heating, cooling, and all subjeets relating to the building of healthful homes, illustrated by cuts; and including estimates of cost. The results of the most recent discoveries are presented, and the volume is filled with valuable practical matter. It will be a 12mo, of 222 pages.

Buffalo Hand is the title of a very readable book, by W. E. Webb, to be published soon by E. Hannaford & Co. It gives a narrative of the adventures, successes, and mishaps of a semi-scientific and sporting party which recently traversed the great plains of the West, starting from Topeka, Kansas. It is written in free, familiar, and attractive style, enlivened with anecdotes, complete in accounts of the hunt; and contains, withal, much information of value to emigrants as well as sportsmen. The noble red man is presented as he really is, and various romantic, but erroneous impressions of the much-storied country are unfeelingly corrected. In these iconoclastic proceedings, the numerous illustrations from actual photographs or original drawings, by Henry Worrall, are very effective, most of them adding the force of genuine humor to the power of the truth. The volume will appear in a 500 page octavo, with clear large type.

A New Mechanical Toy.

YOUNG AMERICA of the present day is by no means satisfied with the dull, stupid tops that once amused his father's youth, but he demands something new and more ingenious than the angular animals, the jumping-jacks and demons that were wont to quiet his paternal ancestors, and give the household peace. Mechanical toys, running by clock-work, for awhile succeeded, but the youthful responsibility soon discovered that this power was but a substitute for something else—an imitation—and therewith demanded the original, which has now been supplied, in the form of a real steamboat, working with a real steam-engine.

This new toy has been introduced by Bramhall, Smith & Co, 128 Chambers street, and it is, beyond doubt, the best toy that has yet been designed. These boats are eleven inches in length, and are a fine minature representation of the side-wheel steamboat. The hull has a good model, and is made of heavy tin. The boiler and machinery is of brass. Although weighing but one pound, they contain all the requisite machinery for a proper application of the motive power, and the boiler is sufficiently large to admit the generation of enough steam to run the little vessel for over half-an-hour.

There is also another style, which resembles the "screw propeller," the machinery of which is rather more complicated, but it gives a very excellent idea of the ocean steamship.

The hull of the propeller is of wood, but is made strong and durable.

The wide-awake boy of the present generation could scarcely desire a better source of amusement, or an article from which a keener enjoyment could be had. Aside from the pleasure that such a toy will give, it has a thoroughly practical value; for it teaches the first lesson in the application of steam as a motive power, and gives the boy a wider range of ideas, and a better knowledge of mechanical contrivances than could otherwise be had. The fact of it being real steam that is employed need not make the anxious parent fear an explosion, for the amount of steam employed is so extremely small that no danger need be apprehended.

These toys have been received with general

favor, and the low price at which they are offered—$2.00 at retail—will undoubtedly secure for them a large and ready sale.

Now that the dull season is at hand, some of the wide-awake dealers could create quite a sensation by furnishing one of their windows with a tank of water, or a place outside, near the entrance, and having a boy to sail these boats on it. A large crowd would undoubtedly be collected, and sufficient boats could be sold to pay all the expenses incurred.

Without doubt this new toy will be the great article of the Christmas holidays.

LITERARY AND TRADE GOSSIP.

REV. NORMAN MACLEOD, the editor of *Good Words*, died suddenly last Sunday of disease of the heart. His loss will be deeply felt in the Scottish Church, in which he was a leader, but will also be cause of sorrow to many, not of that body, to whose intellectual, moral, and religious welfare he has very largely contributed. He was born in 1812, at Campbelton, Scotland, and became minister of London in 1838; in 1843 he went to Dalkeith, and in 1851 took charge of the Barony Parish, Glasgow. Among his published works, "Home Education" and "The Earnest Student" are notable; but his wider reputation is based upon the excellence of the monthly magazine *Good Words*, which under his editorship has achieved a marked success.

MACMILLAN & Co. are about to issue a series of Historical Primers, of nearly the same size and scope as their series of Scientific Primers, recently begun in conjunction with D. Appleton & Co. They are to be under the editorship of Mr. E. A. Freeman. Mr. Freeman has written an introductory sketch of European history, from the first dawn of political life in the independent cities of the Mediterranean, on through the story of the Roman Empire to the history of Modern States, France, Italy, Spain, Germany, England, and its offshoot, the United States of America. After the introduction will come the History of England, by Miss Edith Thompson. France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Scotland, will follow in the series.

BERTHOLD AUERBACH'S new novel will be entitled "Twenty Years, a Picture of Social Life."

MESSRS. WILLIAM WOOD & Co., have their presses crowded with new books to be published before the opening of the medical colleges in the fall. Among the more important are Prof. Frank H. Hamilton's new work on Surgery, a royal octavo of about 1,000 pages, with many hundred illustrations. Stricker's superb treatise on Human and Comparative Histology, 8vo, pp. 950, upward of 700 wood-cuts. Dr. Cohen's book, Diseases of the Throat, 8vo, pp. 600, illustrated. Hysterology: A Treatise on the Diseases of the Uterus, by E. N. Camp, 8vo, illustrated. The Microscope and Microscopic Technology, by Frey. an American translation, 8vo, seven hundred wood-cuts. Dr. Loomis' new Treatise on Physical Diagnosis, 8vo, pp. about 450, illustrated. A re-written edition of Prof. Byford's Obsterics, 8vo, profusely illustrated. A Manual of Chemical Physiology, by J. L. D. Thudichum, 8vo, pp. 195. A Year-Book of Therapeutics, by H. C. Wood, 8vo, and several other smaller works. Besides their announcements for the fall include many valuable new books and new editions. They have recently issued a number of first-class medical books, the titles of which have appeared from time to time in our list.

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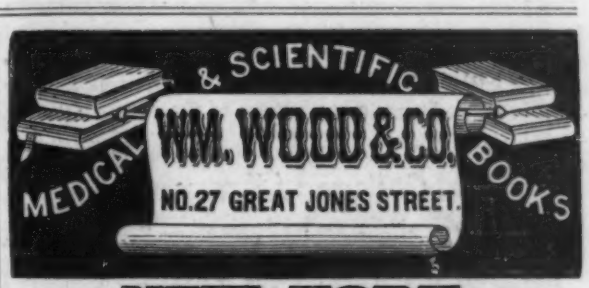

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